



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2009

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TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN CAR BURGLARY CASE

(San Diego) On January 7, 2009 at about 2:45 a.m. SDPD Communications Division received a call from a resident who reported a car break-in at his home in the 600 block of Gravilla Place in La Jolla. The caller indicated he was following the suspects in his personal vehicle. The dispatcher kept the caller on the line and relayed the location information to the responding patrol officers.

With the victim's assistance, Northern Division patrol officers located the suspects at 800 Sapphire Street. Joseph Anthony Verdugo (6/17/79) and Leonard Eric Williams (12/12/68) were arrested and booked into San Diego Central Jail early this morning. Their charges include: 460(c) PC – burglary; 182 PC – conspiracy to commit a crime and 11377(a) HS – possession of a controlled substance. Williams was also booked on an outstanding felony warrant for 11550 HS – under the influence of a controlled substance.

The victim in this case is retired Lt. Colonel Jay Kopelman. Kopelman told officers that his dog, Lava, alerted him that something was wrong; which caused Kopelman to check the perimeter of his home and discover the car burglary in progress.

SDPD recommends that crime victims not try and take suspects into custody on their own. In this case, the victim did an exemplary job in notifying us immediately and allowing the patrol officers to handle the apprehension and arrest of the suspects.

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